(2) Southern Circuit—(Backwater and Beach circuit) Cochin-Kumarakom (Backwaters)-Kottayam-Quilon-Trivandrum (Kovalam)

(c) During the last three years, the Department of Tourism has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 114.19 crores for various projects in States/ UTs having a coastline including the development of infrastructure facilities in the coastal areas.

(d) The Department of tourism has taken up the matter regarding relaxation in Coastal Regulation Zone rules with the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Clearance to tourism projects

2133. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several tourism projects received from the various States are pending with Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) by when the above pending tourism projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b)The Department of Tourism, Government of India has formulated new schemes of Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits and Product/ Infrastrcture and Destination Development for the Tenth Plan and such Circuits and Destinations are identified in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. Projects are sanctioned on merits of the detailed proposals and availability of funds. Developmental works in six tourism circuits and 7 destinations have been sanctioned so far.Three rural tourism projects have also been sanctioned.

(c) The projects which are not sanctioned by the end of this financial year are eligible for consideration during next financial year in consultation with concerned State Governments.